

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0756

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, DA

SUBJ: THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL: DANISH

REACTIONS TO DUBLIN MEETING

REF COPENHAGEN 3518

1. FONOFF UNDER SECRETARY JENS CHRISTENSEN,
WHO, AT LAST MINUTE, WAS ADDED TO DANISH DELEGA-
TION BY FONECONMIN NORGAARD, TOLD CHARGE AND
ECONCOUNS THAT HE WAS NO LESS DISILLUSIONED
BY DUBLIN MEETING THAN BY LAST SUMMIT AT PARIS
(REFTEL). HE HAD HOPED THAT THE NEW FORMAT FOR
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETINGS WOULD PERMIT OPER-
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ATIONS UNDER EC COUNCIL RULES, PERMITTING SMAL-

LER STATES BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE. THIS WAS NOT THE CASE AT DUBLIN, HE SAID, WHERE SCHMIDT, GISCARD AND WILSON AGAIN DMOMINATED THE SCENE. FORTUNATELY, HE ADDED, DENMARK HAD NO ISSUES OF ITS OWN AT STAKE AT THIS MEETING IF IT HAD, IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN VERY DISAPPOINTED.

2. OTHERWISE, CHRISTENSEN AGREED WITH MOST OTHER COMMENTARIES THAT DUBLIN MEETING ACHIEVED ITS PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF PROVIDING THE BRITISH WITH THE BEST POSSIBLE RENEGOTIATIONS PACKAGE TO TAKE BACK TO EHIR ELECTORATE. HE FOUND THAT, AS USUAL, THE BUREAUCRATS IN THE FRENCH DELEGATION TENDED TO BE VERY TOUGH ON THE BRITISH-- REFLECTING A LONG-STANDING ANTI-BRITISH BIAS-- BUT, FORTUNATELY, GISCARD WAS MORE INTERESTED IN A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT. IN FACT, CHRISTENSEN FOUND THE GERMANS WERE, IN THE END, TOUGHER THAN THE FRENCH ON THE BUDGET QUESTION.

3. ON THE ENERGY DISCUSSIONS, CHRISTENSEN SAID HE WAS SURPRISED AT THE PROMINENCE AND TIME GIVEN THIS SUBJECT BUT GATHERED IT WAS PRINCIPALLY AT GISCARD'S INITIATIVE WHO WANTED TO BE SURE TO KEEP FRENCH INFLUENCE STRONG ON THIS SUBJECT. CHRISTENSEN UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIGH LEVEL AD HOC ENERGY COMMITTEE CAME FROM THE FRENCH, SUPPORTED BY THE GERMANS. CHRISTENSEN THOUGHT THE COMMITTEE MIGHT GIVE THE FRENCH SOMEWHAT MORE LEVERAGE IN INFLUENCING IEA DECISION-MAKING AND FELT THEREFORE THAT THE DEVELOPMENT WAS UNFORTUNATE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID THE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS WERE SO VAGUE THAT THE FRENCH PURPOSE MIGHT BE SUBVERTED BY MAKING THE COMMITTEE A CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM NOT MUCH DIFFERENT THAN THE MORE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRENCH ALREADY IN EFFECT.

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4. REGARDING THE QUESTION OF AN IEA OBSERVER AT THE PREPCON, CHRISTENSEN SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION FROM WHAT WAS SAID AT DUBLIN THAT GISCARD HAS BECOME MORE RELUCTANT ON THIS ISSUE, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OPEC IS NOT INTERESTED IN OBSERVER STATUS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE DID NOT THINK THE FRENCH FELT VERY STRONGLY AND COULD JUST

AS EASILY BE PERSUADED AGAIN TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS.

5. ON SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, CHRISTENSEN SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED AT DUBLIN TO MEET "IN DUE TIME" TO PREPARE FOR THE PRODUCER-CONSUMER ENERGY CONFERENCE. THE NEXT MEETING WOULD THEREFORE DEPEND MUCH ON TIMING OF THIS CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT DANISH PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO HOLD IT IN BRUSSELS, ESTABLISHING A TRADITION OF A SPRING AND FALL MEETING IN THE CAPITALS OF THE COUNTRIES HOLDING THE EC PRESIDENCY AND A MID-YEAR MEETING IN BRUSSELS.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT. CHRISTENSEN CONTINUES TO BE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT EC COOPERATION AND CONSULTATIVE MECHANISMS. FACED NOW WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEGATIVE VOTE IN THE BRISIH REFERENDUM AND A SUBSEQUENT DANISH REFERENDUM WITH UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT THE RESULTS, HE SEES THE FUTURE EVEN MORE DARKLY.
DUNNIGAN

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